

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05
INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EURE-00 /059 W
-----053317 091658Z /42

O 091623Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5304
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USIA WASHDC
ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 07674

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLES ON US DEFENSE STRATEGY

REF: (A) STATE 186657 (DTG 082248Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(B) STATE 183051 (DTG 082248Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(C) USNATO 7515 (DTG 041430Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(D) COPENHAGEN 4631 (DTG 041115Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(E) BONN 12707 (DTG 031654Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(F) BONN 12663 (DTG 031215Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(G) MUNICH 2288 (DTG 041250Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(H) STATE 183039 (DTG 041528Z AUG 77)(NOTAL);
(I) COPENHAGEN 4634 (DTG 041251Z AUG 77)(NOTAL)
SUMMARY: GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF A RE EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE,
PARTICULARLY FACT THAT "THE US INTENDS TO STAND BY THE
COMMITMENT IT MADE ON RESOURCE GUIDANCE IN THIS YEAR'S
MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE APPROVED LAST MAY AT NATO DEFENSE
PLANNING COMMITTEE MINISTERIAL MEETING," WILL BE
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ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN OFFSETTING ADVERSE COMMENTS.
NEVERTHELESS, SECOND EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE HAS PARTIALLY
REKINDLED FLAME IN FRG PRESS. WE CAN ANTICIPATE FURTHER
SPECULATION UNHELPFUL TO US AND NATO SECURITY INTERESTS
FROM FOLLOW-UP STORIES. IN OUR VIEW, MOST EFFECTIVE
WAY TO DAMPEN FURTHER SPECULATION WOULD BE TO TAKE
THE INITIATIVE AND HAVE AUTHORITATIVE (PREFERABLY

WHITE HOUSE) WASHINGTON SPOKESMAN STATE IN GENERAL TERMS, AS SOON AS FEASIBLE, THE KEY DECISIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF PRM-10 REVIEW CONCERNING US-NATO RELATED STRATEGY INCLUDING REAFFIRMATION OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR RESOURCE GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS NOTED REF C, WE DISTRIBUTED WASHINGTON STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE TO ALL NATO DELEGATIONS AND THE LOCAL PRESS. THOUGH HELPFUL, HESE STATEMENTS ARE UNLIKELY TO TOTALLY DISPEL THE LINGERING CONCERNS RAISED BY EVANS-NOVAK, PARTICULARLY GIVEN PUBLICATION OF THEIR SECOND ARTICLE.

2. IN THIS REGARD, DSYG PANSA TOLD CHARGE TODAY THAT "ONE OR TWO PERMREPS" HAD ASKED HIM WHETHER US INTENDED TO PROVIDE ALLIES WITH ANY FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIRST EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE. PANSA STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY THE FRG THAT WAS CONCERNED. CHARGE DREW ON GUIDANCE REF A ADDING THAT MISSION HAD CIRCULATED WASHINGTON COMMENTS. PANSA WAS UNAWARE OF SECOND ARTICLE AND WE WILL FOLLOW-UP FURTHER AFTER RECEIPT OF WASHINGTON REACTION TO THIS AND SIMILAR MESSAGES FROM OTHER NATO CAPITALS.

3. RATHER THAN ISSUING FURTHER DENIALS, WE SEE BOTH AN
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OPPORTUNITY TO QUELL EUROPEAN UNEASE AND DIMINISH FURTHER PRESS SPECULATION, AND TO GAIN SOME POSITIVE ADVANTAGE BY TAKING THE INITIATIVE (WITHOUT RESPONDING TO EVANS-NOVAK), BY ANNOUNCING IN THE NEAR-TERM APPROPRIATELY COUCHED DECISIONS FLOWING FROM PRM-10.

4. WE REALIZE PRM-10'S CONCEPTUAL SWEEP GOES BEYOND MATTERS CONFINED TO OUR NATO-RELATED POSTURE AND THAT NORMALLY DECISIONS ON NSC-RELATED STUDIES ARE NOT PUBLICIZED, AS SUCH. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, A STATEMENT THAT MIGHT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE:

. - AN ALLUSION TO THE HYPOTHETICAL NATURE OF THE PRM ANALYTICAL APPROACH, E.G., THE ANALYSIS OF A FULL RANGE OF OPTIONS, COSTS AND IMPLICATIONS;

. - A GENERAL EXPLICATION OF THE OPTIONS CONSIDERED FOR THE FUTURE AND WHY THE OPTION BASED ON A CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT FOR NATO'S CURRENT STRATEGY STOOD ALONE AS THE MOST VIABLE - THOUGH NOTING THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S

PROGRAM OUTLINED AT LONDON;

. - A REAFFIRMATION THAT THE ALLIANCE'S DETERRENT
POSTURE CONTINUES TO BE EFFECTIVE TODAY;

. - AN INDICATION THAT, AS A DEMONSTRATION OF
US RESOLVE, THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO AIM FOR A
3 PERCENT REAL ANNUAL DEFENSE SPENDING INCREASE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY DEFENSE MINISTERS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 07674

AT THE DPC MEETING IN MAY. GLITMAN

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Message Attributes

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